



# NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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## Checkpoints Aim to Keep Fireworks Out of Vulnerable Communities

**SAN BERNARDINO** – Law enforcement and fire officials will stage traffic checkpoints today and throughout the 4<sup>th</sup> of July week to intercept illegal fireworks before they reach communities where the threat of wildfire is extremely high.

“The last thing we need in our parched forest and foothill communities is illegal fireworks, so we’re going to do everything we can to keep fireworks out,” said San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane, who urged officials to establish fireworks checkpoints.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department will conduct fireworks checkpoints in conjunction with the California Highway Patrol and San Bernardino County Fire Department. The checkpoints will be held on roads leading to vulnerable communities. Officials announced the interdiction effort during a press conference today at a checkpoint on Highway 18.

Any fireworks discovered at the checkpoints, including the “Safe and Sane” variety available in some cities, will be confiscated. Those caught with illegal fireworks will be cited and possibly charged for the destruction of the fireworks. Misdemeanor fireworks possession is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 or by imprisonment in county jail for up to a year. Fireworks possession can be a felony depending on the quantity. The felony charge is punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 or by commitment in state prison.

Chairman Biane encouraged residents to celebrate Independence Day in their forest, but he also cautioned them to heed the ban on all fireworks.

“People who use illegal fireworks are putting themselves and innocent people at risk,” Biane said. “I urge residents to attend one of the many professional displays planned in our County if they want to see fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.”

In addition to requesting fireworks checkpoints, Biane asked the cities of Rancho Cucamonga and Fontana as well as the Sheriff’s Department to increase law enforcement presence along the foothills on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

The City of Rancho Cucamonga plans to enforce residents-only access along northern Archibald, Haven and Etiwanda avenues and Sapphire Street on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The City of Fontana plans to have six additional two-officer patrols for fireworks enforcement. The Sheriff’s Department assigned three deputies to patrol the unincorporated community of San Antonio Heights on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

“I applaud cities that are proactively enforcing fireworks restrictions in their communities,” Biane said. “I think we can all agree that the threat of fire is too high not to do something.”

Chairman Biane serves as the County of San Bernardino’s Second District Supervisor. His district encompasses the cities of Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga and Upland as well as the unincorporated areas of Lytle Creek, Devore, and the Crestline mountain communities.

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